## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 01362 051547Z

72

**ACTION OPIC-06** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 /029 W

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R 051500Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0122 USDOC/WASHDC AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN, EINV, EAID, OPIC, SG, KU

SUBJ: LIONEL DYER

REF: A. KUWAIT 0552 B. STATE 271809

- 1. EMBASSY DAKAR REQESTS INDICATION FROM COMMERCE, OPIC, AND SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT STATUS OF LIONEL R. DYER, AND HIS INTERNATION TRADE AND INVESTMENT CORP. PROJECT FOR SENEGAL. DYER VISITED DAKAR IN MID-DEC. (REF B) AND EXPLAINED ITIC PROJECT AS EFFORT TO INVOLVE US AND KUWAITI FUNDS TO FINANCE EXPORT OF US CAPITAL EQUIPMENT TO AFRICA AND SPECIFICALLY SENEGAL. DYER'S EXPLANATION OF PROJECT SIMILAR THAT REPORTED REF A. BY EMBASSY KUWAIT. DYER SHOWED LETTERS FROM OPIC, SBA, AND COMMERCE OMBE INDICATING INTEREST IN PROJECT.
- 2. DYER ALSO MET WITH MAMADOU DIA, DEP DIR.,
  SENEGALO-KUWAITI BANK (BSK), DURING DEC VISIT,
  RETURNED TO SEE DIA BRIEFLY IN JAN, AND HAS CALLED
  DIA FROM WASHDC. EMBASSY OFFICER RECENTLY MET WITH
  DIA TO DISCUSS SITUATION AND HE INDICATED BSK HAD SOME
  QUESTIONS REGARDING PROJECT. DIA INDICATED DYER HAD
  RECENTLY REQUESTED DIA COME TO US TO SIGN AGREEMENT BUT
  DIA HAD RESPONDED THAT SEVERAL MAJOR QUESTIONS REMAINED
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 01362 051547Z

FOR BSK AND FOR KUWAITI INVESTORS BSK WOULD REPRESENT IN

PROJECT. DIA INQUIRED AS TO EXTENT OF USG COMMITMENT TO DYER AND EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT WHILE OPIC, SBA, AND COMMERCE HAD APPARENTLY SHOWN SOME INTEREST IN DYER'S INITIAL PROPOSAL, EMBASSY WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY USG COMMITMENTS TO PROJECT. DIA INDICATED BSK AND KUWAITI'S INTEREST IN PROJECT HAD ALSO NOT YET PROGRESSED TO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS.

3. EMBASSY DAKAR HAS SOME CONCERN AS TO PROJECT AND WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES AS TO CURRENT SITUATION. OUR MAJOR CONCERN IS FACT THAT DURING VISITS TO SENEGAL DYER HAS HAD ONLY VAGUE NOTION OF TYPE OF PROJECTS AND/OR EQUIPMENT TO BE FINANCED IN SENEGAL. WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE THE SENEGAL PORTION OF DYER'S PROPOSAL WITHOUT MORE CONCRETE IDEA OF TYPE OF ACTIVITIES HE WOULD UNDERTAKE IN SENEGAL. IN VIEW OF DYER'S LIMITED BUSINESS EXPERIENCE, EMBASSY FEELS PROJECT SHOULD NOT BE RUSHED WITHOUT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. THUS FAR, PROJECT HAS REMAINED ON LOW PROFILE HERE AND HAS NOT RAISED GOS EXPECTATIONS. WE FEEL IT ESSENTIAL THAT BEFORE PROJECT AROUSE PUBLIC INTEREST, MAIN DETAILS SHOULD BE RESOLVED.

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To: STATE KUWAIT

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